

Species new to N. Aberdeenshire (93):

Ectoedemia occultella L.: *Stigmella malella* Stt.: *Tischeria ekebladella* Bjerk.:
Argyresthia semitestacella Curt.: *Teleiodes decorella* Haw.: *Byrotropha mundella*
 Doug.: *Aethes piercei* Obraz.: *Philedonides lunana* Thunb.: *Endothenia marginana*
 Haw.: *E. caprana* F.

Species now recorded from all three Vice Counties:

Stigmella aurella F.: *S. tityrella* Stt.: *S. microtheriella* Stt.: *Phylloporia bistrigella*
 Haw.: *Incurvaria pectinea* Haw.: *Bucculatrix demaryella* Dup.: *Parornix betulae*
 Stt.: *Phyllonorycter rajella* L.: *P. geniculella* Rag.: *Elachista regificella* Sirc.: *E.*
gleichnella F.: *E. kilmunella* Stt.: *Scrobipalpa samadensis plantaginella* Stt.:
Mompha conturbatella Hb.: *M. propinquella* Stt.: *Olindia schumacherana* F.:
Ancylis geminana Don.

***Hedychridium coriaceum* (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae) and other less common aculeate Hymenoptera from Mitcham Common, Surrey.**

In 1984, A.D. Sclater (in Morris 1984) recorded a single specimen of *Hedychridium coriaceum* which he took "at a flower" (pers. comm.) on Mitcham Common. Since then, I have frequently found *H. coriaceum* on this site and in my experience, flower visiting is not unusual although there do not seem to be published records of such habits. Specimens taken on 30.7.1988 were found at yarrow *Achilea millefolium*. In 1990, I also took this species at hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and an unidentified *Leontodon* sp. (Compositae).

On Mitcham Common, *H. coriaceum* can be extremely abundant, and is often found on the bare compacted sand of footpaths where its host *Lindenius albilabris* nests. However, I have also seen it flying in numbers over very short turf. Currently *H. coriaceum* is listed as RDB 3 (Shirt 1987) and it seems likely that Mitcham Common is an important stronghold. The flight period in 1990 was 10.06 to trapping period 28.07/04.08.1990. This species is frequently taken in water traps, sometimes well away from the main host nesting sites, amongst ranker grassland. Indeed, *H. coriaceum* appears to be more abundant than either *H. roseum* or *H. ardens* on Mitcham Common.

Mitcham Common has yielded many other interesting aculeates amongst which, the discovery of *Adrena florea* (RDB 3) was particularly pleasing. so far, I have taken only two individuals of this species, both of which were at white bryony *Bryonia dioica* in 1990. Another surprise was *Hylaeus cornutus* which proved to be widespread and was often seen at hogweed. *Andrena bimaculata* was also common in 1990 and was found to be nesting along the edge of a footpath in very short turf. Nests of this species appear to be widely spaced and not obviously colonial.

The solitary wasp fauna is also very rich. One of the more surprising finds was the pompilid *Auplopus carbonarius* which was first found nesting in the root plate of a lombardy poplar which was also colonised by *Colletes*

bees and various *Ectemnius* and *Crossocerus* species. Further examples of *A. carbonarius* were taken in a water trap in tall grassland which mainly comprised *Holcus mollis* interspersed with brambles. *Nysson trilineatus* is frequently taken in water traps and is also often seen on bramble leaves. So far, I have only found its normal host *Gorytes quadrifasciatus* on a single occasion but *G. bicinctus* is present in low numbers. *Nysson dimidiatus* is also present, although its normal host *Gorytes tumidus* has not been recorded and it is possible that *Lindenius albilabris* is the alternative here. *L. albilabris* is very common on this site and I have occasionally found pairs *in cop.* on hogweed flowers. Whilst paired, the male beats its wings very rapidly in a curious fashion, so much so that I initially mistook the pair for flies.

Mitcham Common is a site which must rank very highly in a London context. So far, over 120 species of Aculeate Hymenoptera have been recorded here; on the basis of discoveries so far, it seems likely that further important records will emerge.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank the warden Mr M. Boyle, for permission to study and record insects on Mitcham Common. I would also like to thank Mr M. Edwards for identifying *Hylaeus cornutus* and *Andrena bimaculata* and for confirming my tentative identification of *Andrena florea*.

References:

- Morris, R.K.A. (Ed.) 1984. *The Ecology of Mitcham Common*. Unpublished report to the Board of Conservators of Mitcham Common.
- Shirt, D.B. (Ed.) 1987. *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.
- R.K.A. MORRIS, 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.

An early sighting of the Small White (*Pieris rapae* L.) at Niton, Isle of Wight

Mrs Audrey Wilkinson of Niton, Isle of Wight, was sitting in her back room on 9th January 1991 working on her moth records when her attention was drawn to a flapping sound around the ceiling light. At first she thought that it was a moth but discovered that it was a Small White (*Pieris rapae* L.). She released it in the back porch and noticed that it had settled on a string of onions with its wings tightly closed. It remained there until 22nd January. She has some broccoli growing in the garden and I expect a larva came indoors where it pupated during the autumn and that the warmth of the room caused it to hatch.

It is however an exceptionally early sighting of this butterfly and the earliest known sighting of this species in England was on 4th January 1918 at Faversham, Kent (Robertson, *Ent.* 51: 45).— S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.